

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A connector for electrically connecting a card and a lead wire, comprising:

a housing for to and from which the card can be inserted and pulled out along a surface of said housing; and

a contact built in said housing, said contact having a pair of exposed ends and an embedded portion positioned between said exposed ends and embedded in said housing, one of the exposed ends capable of connecting to a lead wire, the other of the exposed ends capable of connecting to the card when the card is inserted,

wherein said housing comprises:

a substantially flat and rectangular housing base portion holding said contact by embedding said embedded portion,

a first communication hole formed on one surface of said housing base portion to communicate with said embedded portion of the contact,

said first communication hole having a diameter which allows a probe for a connector conduction test to be inserted into said first communication hole; and

a second communication hole formed on the other surface of said housing base portion to communicate with said embedded portion of the contact, said second communication hole being formed opposite to said first communication hole.

2. (Original) The connector according to claim 1, wherein the diameter of said first communication hole is smaller than a width of said contact.

3. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) A method for producing a connector for electrically connecting a card and a lead wire, including a housing to and from which the card can be inserted and pulled out along a surface of the housing and a contact built in the housing with the housing having a substantially flat and rectangular housing base portion holding said contact by embedding said embedded portion, the contact having a pair of exposed ends and an embedded

portion positioned between said exposed ends and embedded in said housing, one of the exposed ends capable of connecting to the lead wire, the other of the exposed ends capable of connecting to the card when the card is inserted, said method comprising:

a contact holding step of supporting the contact with first support pin so as to hold the contact inside a mold;

a molding step of injecting a resin into said mold so as to form the housing; and

a mold releasing step of releasing said mold and said first support pin from the housing to form a first communication hole formed on one surface of said housing base portion to communicate with said embedded portion of communicating with the contact inside the housing, said first communication hole having a diameter which allows a probe for a connector conductor test to be inserted into said first communication hole,

wherein said contact holding step further comprises supporting said contact with a second support pin together with said first support pin and wherein said mold releasing step further comprises releasing said mold and said second support pin from the housing to form in the housing a second communication hole formed on the other surface of said housing base portion to communicate with said embedded portion of communicating with the contact, said second communication hole having a diameter which allows said probe for the connector conduction test to be inserted into said second communication hole.

4. (Withdrawn) The method for producing a connector according to claim 3, wherein the diameter of said first support pin is a size not less than a sum of an outer diameter of said probe for a connector conduction test and a positioning error in said contact holding step.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Withdrawn, Previously Presented) The method for producing a connector according to any one of claims 3 and 4, wherein said first support pin supports substantially a center of said contact in said contact holding step.

8. (Withdrawn, Previously Presented) The method for producing a connector according to any one of claims 3 and 4, wherein said contact holding step further comprises clamping said contact with said mold.

9. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) A method for producing a connector for electrically connecting a card and lead wires, including a housing to and from which said card can be inserted and pulled out along a surface of the housing and a contact built in the housing with the housing having a substantially flat and rectangular housing base portion holding said contact by embedding said embedded portion, the contact having exposed ends and an embedded portion positioned between said exposed ends and embedded in said housing, one of the exposed ends capable of connecting to the lead wire and the other of the exposed ends capable of connecting to the card when the card is inserted, said method comprising:

a contact holding step of supporting the contact with a support pin so as to hold the contact inside a mold;

a molding step of injecting a resin into said mold so as to mold the housing; a mold releasing step of releasing said mold and said support pin from the housing to form a first communication hole formed on one surface of said housing base portion to communicate with said embedded portion of communicating with the contact inside the housing; and

a communication hole expansion step of expanding a diameter of said first communication hole to allow a probe for a connector conduction test to be inserted into said first communication hole,

wherein said contact holding step further comprises supporting said contact with a second support pin together with said first support pin and wherein said mold releasing step further comprises releasing said mold and said second support pin from the housing to form in the housing a second communication hole formed on the other surface of said housing base portion to communicate with said embedded portion of communicating with the contact, said second communication hole having a diameter which allows said probe for the connector conduction test to be inserted into said second communication hole.

10. (Withdrawn, Previously Presented) A method for improving production efficiency of a connector for electrically connecting a card and a lead wire, including a housing to and from which the card can be inserted and pulled out along a surface of the housing and a contact built in the housing, the contact having a pair of exposed ends, one of the exposed ends capable of connecting to said lead wire, the other capable of connecting to the card when the card is inserted, said method comprising:

a contact holding step of supporting the contact with support pin so as to hold the contact inside a mold;

a molding step of injecting a resin into said mold so as to form the housing; and

a mold releasing step of releasing said mold and said support pin from the housing to form a first communication hole communicating with the contact inside the housing, said first communication hole having a diameter which allows a probe for a connector conduction test to be inserted into said first communication hole,

wherein said contact holding step further comprises supporting said contact with a second support pin together with said first support pin and wherein said mold releasing step further comprises releasing said mold and said second support pin from the housing to form in the housing a second communication hole communicating with the contact, said second communication hole having a diameter which allows said probe for the connector conduction test to be inserted into said second communication hole.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for testing conduction of a connector for electrically connecting a card and a lead wire, including a housing to and from which the card can be inserted and pulled out along a surface of the housing and a contact built in the housing, the housing comprising a substantially flat and rectangular housing base portion holding the contact, the contact having a pair of exposed ends and an embedded portion positioned between said exposed ends and embedded in said housing, one of the exposed ends capable of connecting to the lead wire, the other of the exposed ends capable of connecting to the card when the card is inserted, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a first communication hole on one surface of said housing base portion to communicate with said embedded portion of the contact inside the housing, said first communication hole having a diameter which allows a probe for a connector conduction test to be inserted into said first communication hole;

forming a second communication hole in the other surface of said housing base portion to communicate with said embedded portion of the contact, said second communication hole being formed opposite to said first communication hole; and

inserting said probe for a connector conduction test into said first communication hole such that said probe can make an electrical contact with a portion of the contact, the portion of the contact being exposed out of the first communication hole.